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DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T S

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

*1957*

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Public Health Department,  
West Hill House,  
West Hill,  
EPSOM,  
Surrey,

November, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Dorking and Horley Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit an annual report for the year 1957. The request for this is made in Ministry of Health Circular 1/58, in which there is reference to Articles 6 (3) and 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 and 1951, and Article 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officers Order 1926. The report is in a form which meets the requirements of the Ministry as summarised in the Circular.

Section I of the report deals with the vital statistics of the district. The birth rate reached its highest level since 1947. This exceptional increase is largely due to the number of new houses which have been occupied by young married people. There was also a rise in the death rate above the relatively low level of the past four years. The increase was almost entirely confined to the older age groups of the community. Deaths from fatal road accidents rose to seven compared with six in the previous year. The infant mortality rate remained low, and all the deaths occurred within four weeks of birth.

In Section II there is a brief general description of health services in the district. These include services operated by the Surrey County Council as the local health authority, and by the hospital services. Section III deals with environmental conditions, Section IV with housing and Section V with food. These are matters which are mainly under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector, whose report contains details of the associated work of his departments.

In Section VI of the report, which deals with infectious diseases, there is a reminder to parents of the importance of registering their children's names with the local health authority for vaccination against poliomyelitis, if they have not already done so. There is also a note on the occurrence of paratyphoid and typhoid among visitors to the continent.

I take this opportunity to bring to your notice the conscientious work of the staff of the Public Health Department, whether engaged on inspectorial and outside duties, or on office duties in either the section so efficiently administered by Mr. E. A. Atkinson, the Chief Public Health Inspector, or those under my immediate control. My thanks are also due to the Officers of other departments of the Council for assistance and advice rendered on many occasions during the year.

It is a pleasure to record my appreciation of the support which has been given by the Council, and particularly by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, in our efforts to promote favourable conditions for good health in the district.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CYRUS IWE,

Medical Officer of Health.

DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE 1957-1958

Mr. L. S. Bailey, A.I.A.A., L.R.I.B.A.

Mrs. I. Carr

Mrs. F. J. M. Gatterall

Mr. A. Farley

Maj. Gen. E. H. Goulburn, D.S.O.

Mrs. E. D. Hill

Mr. G. R. Horley

Mr. T. Jones

Mr. C. F. Keen

Mr. H. Lang

Mr. S. E. Morgan, A.C.A.

Colonel T. R. B. Sanders, C.B.

Mrs. R. Sewill

Vice-Chairman of Committee

Mr. F. A. Woodruff

Chairman of Committee

Group Captain F. Whitworth

Miss E. A. B. Wilding

Ex-Officio Members

Mr. V. H. Douchar, J.P.

Chairman of Council

Mr. W. A. Searle

(Vice-Chairman of Council  
deceased 10.9.57)

Representatives of the Council on

(1) SOUTHERN DIVISIONAL (HEALTH) SUB-COMMITTEE

Mrs. I. Carr

Mrs. E. D. Hill

Mr. G. R. Horley

Mr. H. T. Whittingham

(2) TUBERCULOSIS CARE COMMITTEE

Mr. G. R. Horley (Dorking)

Mrs. E. D. Hill (Reigate)

DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

Cyrus Ives, M.B., (Lond.), M.R.C.S., (Eng.), L.R.C.P., (Lond.), D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

Eric A. Atkinson

M.P.H.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

D. D. Heath

M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

R. R. Charman

M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Medical Officer of Health's Staff

Clerk/Secretary:

Miss E. E. Nolan

Clerk/Telephonist:

Mrs. M. E. Joseph

Junior Clerk:

Miss M. Richardson (to 15.6.57)

Miss G. F. Skidmore (from 17.6.57)

Chief Public Health Inspector's Staff

Shorthand/Typists:

Miss E. M. Knight

Miss A. E. Grinstead

Clerk i/c Cesspool Records:

Mr. S. R. Smith

Pests Officer

Mr. W. J. Woodards

The Medical Officer of Health and his clerical staff act in a similar capacity for the Dorking and Leatherhead Urban Districts and for the Borough of Epsom and Ewell

The Chief Public Health Inspector also acts as Housing Officer to the Rural District Council.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR  
THE YEAR 1957

**1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA**

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	53,943
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	25,832
Population (Estimated mid-year 1957)			...	...	...	29,260
Density (persons per acre)		...	...	...	...	0.54
Rateable value at 31st December, 1957			...	...	...	£415,197
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£1,650

PARISHES COMPRISING THE DISTRICT WITH AREA AND POPULATION (Census 1951)

Parish	Population	Area (acres)	No of occupied dwellings	Persons per acre
Abinger	1,889	7,481	549	0.25
Betchworth	1,614	2,562	440	0.63
Buckland	640	1,362	188	0.47
Capel	2,386	5,694	718	0.42
Charlwood	2,757	6,901	760	0.40
Headley	591	1,640	124	0.36
Holmwood	1,084	3,749	285	0.29
Horley	11,394	7,449	3,278	1.53
Leigh	820	3,419	224	0.24
Newdigate	1,220	4,744	365	0.26
Ockley	798	3,400	243	0.23
Wotton	639	5,542	191	0.12
	25,832	53,943	7,365	0.54



EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Total	505	249	256	Birth Rate per
Legitimate	484	239	245	1,000 population
Illegitimate	21	10	11	Standardised Birth Rate
				17.3
<u>Still Births</u>				17.6
Total	10	7	3	Rate per 1,000
Legitimate	10	7	3	total live and
Illegitimate	-	-	-	still births
				19.4
				Rate per 1,000 population
				0.34
<u>Deaths</u>	318	156	162	Crude Death Rate
				10.9
				Standardised Death Rate
				11.2

Infant Mortality

(a) Total	12	5	7	Infant Mortality
Legitimate	10	4	6	Rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	2	1	1	live births
				23.8
(b) Total	12	5	7	Neonatal Mortality
Legitimate	10	4	6	Rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	2	1	1	live births
				23.8

Maternal Mortality

Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	-	-	1	Maternal Mortality
Due to abortion	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 births (Live & still) 1.94

Table I shows birth and death rates, and case rates for infectious diseases, with comparison with the figures for 1956.

Table II gives a comparison of birth, death and infant mortality rates for the district since 1931, with the figures for England and Wales for the same period.

BIRTHS

Live births numbered 505, of which 249 were males and 256 females. The birth rate was 17.3 per 1,000 of the population, compared with the rate of 15.9 for 1956.

Details such as age and sex distribution affect local birth-rates and invalidate comparison with the rates of other populations. To overcome this a comparability factor (1.02) has been supplied by the Registrar General which when applied to the crude birth-rate gives a figure which may be used for purposes of comparison. On application of this factor a standardised birth-rate of 17.6 is obtained, compared with a rate of 16.1 for England and Wales.

Twenty-one births, or 4% of the total, were illegitimate. The corresponding figures for England and Wales and for the County of Surrey were approximately the same.



## DEATHS

Deaths assigned to the area numbered 318, representing a crude death-rate of 10.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The total comprised 156 males and 162 females.

A comparability factor (1.03) has been provided by the Registrar General which may be applied to the crude death-rate for use in comparing the local death-rate with those of other areas. The factor makes allowance for the differing age and sex distribution of local populations. Application of the factor to the local rate increases it from 10.9 to 11.2. The death-rate for England and Wales was 11.5. The average age at death of males was 67.4 years and of females 69.8 years. Approximately 45% of deaths took place in hospitals.

### Causes of Death

Compared with 1956 there was a rise in the death-rate, the principle increases being in circulatory and malignant diseases. The causes of death are set out in Table III. Diseases of the heart and circulatory system (categories 17-21 in Table III) caused 169 deaths (death-rate of 5.8 per 1,000 population), and those due to respiratory diseases (categories 23-25) numbered 14 (0.48 per 1,000). Malignant diseases (categories 10-14) caused 63 deaths (2.15 per 1,000 compared with 2.09 for England and Wales): in 10 cases (7 males and 3 females) the primary site of the growth was in the lungs or bronchus.

The deaths were divided among the parishes in the following numbers: Abinger 22, Betchworth 20, Buckland 8, Capel 37, Charlwood 28, Headley 3, Horley 141, Leigh 1, Newdigate 24, Ockley 11, Holmwood 11 and Wotton 4.

### Deaths from Road Accidents

Seven residents died as a result of injuries received in road accidents in which motor vehicles were involved. Three of the deaths were notified by the Redhill District Hospital, two by the Dorking General Hospital and two by hospitals in other counties. At the time of the accidents two of the deceased were riding motor cycles, two were on bicycles and three were pedestrians.

In my report for 1956 I drew the attention of the Council to the high accident mortality rate of schoolchildren, particularly in the Horley area. This information was also given to the Divisional Education Officer, who in turn reminded the headteachers of all schools in Horley of the need for continued educational training in road safety. It was also given to the Road Safety Committee which extended its educational activities considerably during the year. It is encouraging to note that for the first time in recent years there were no deaths of schoolchildren.

These details of fatal accidents do not include accidents to non-residents of the district, who may have died as the result of accidents occurring within the area.

### Deaths due to Other Accidents

These numbered five and included 3 of elderly people who died as a result of complications following trivial accidents. One death of an elderly adult resulted from pneumonia which followed scalding due to a hot water bottle. The remaining death in this category was caused in the crash of an aircraft.



### Deaths from Suicide

Five females and one male took their own lives. One was 73 years old; the age of the remainder fell between 40 and 60 years. Two of the deaths were produced by coal gas poisoning, two by aspirin and two by drowning.

### INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of children under the age of one year numbered 12 and the infant mortality rate was 23.8 per 1,000 live births. Comparable figures for 1956 were 9 deaths with an infant mortality rate of 20.0. The rate for England and Wales was 23.0.

All these deaths occurred within 4 weeks of birth, 6 being due to prematurity, 2 to congenital defects, 2 to pneumonia, 1 to congenital haemolytic jaundice and 1 to injuries caused by a difficult delivery.

### MATERNAL MORTALITY

One death connected with pregnancy was recorded during the year. This resulted in a London hospital from the therapeutic induction of labour to terminate a pregnancy for medical reasons. It is the first death due to causes connected with pregnancy or maternity to have occurred since 1950, and in that time there have been over 3,000 births. This fact should be considered when comparing this year's maternal mortality rate of 1.94 per 1,000 births with the rate of 0.47 for England and Wales.

### POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of population was 29,260 and showed an increase of 910 on the previous year. Part of this was due to natural increase, excess of births over deaths being 137. It is assumed that the remainder of the estimated increase was due to immigration to those parts of the district in which new development took place, principally in Horley and Salfords.

The population of the district is estimated to have increased by 3,428 since the Census was taken in 1951. Most of this growth has taken place in the Parish of Horley, with small increases in the Parishes of Abinger, Betchworth and Capel. A decrease of population has occurred in the Parish of Charlwood as a result of the development of Gatwick Airport.



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREAHOSPITAL FACILITIES

The Horley and District Cottage Hospital is the only hospital situated in the district. It has a bed complement of 16 and is staffed by the local general practitioners with a panel of consultants whose services can be called upon if necessary.

The Dorking General Hospital and the Redhill County Hospital with its branch at Smallfields provide accommodation for medical, surgical and maternity cases, and it is to these that the majority of patients requiring in-treatment are admitted.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases and requiring treatment in hospital may be admitted to one of a number of hospitals, depending on the accommodation available at the time. During the year cases were admitted to Bletchingley Hospital, Godstone; Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton; to the Western Fever Hospital, Fulham and to the Grove Hospital, Tooting.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratories available to medical practitioners are provided at the East Surrey Hospital, the Redhill County Hospital, the Dorking General Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford. Examination of specimens in connection with the diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases can be referred to either of two Public Health Laboratories of the Medical Research Council, one situated at West Hill House, West Hill, Epsom and the other at St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford. These laboratories also undertake bacteriological examinations of samples of water supplies, milk and food, including ice-cream and biological examinations for tubercle bacilli in milk.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The public ambulance service is under the control of the Surrey County Council, who have given the following information regarding the use of the service:-

The main ambulance station for the area is at the Smallfields Section of the Redhill County Hospital (telephone Smallfields 271) with a sub-station at Harrowlands, South Terrace, Dorking.

In accidents in the home or elsewhere or in any sudden illness in the streets or public places, any responsible person may call the ambulance to remove the patient (if by telephone use the local Emergency Calling System). Normal maternity cases are removed if the applicant can give evidence that a maternity bed has been booked. Maternity cases with serious complications, or where birth is imminent, are not normally removed without the authority of a doctor or certified midwife, who should travel with the patient in the ambulance.

The removal of other cases of illness or accidents are arranged by the hospital concerned or by the medical practitioner in charge of the patient. For private removals a written request, accompanied by a doctor's certificate, should be made to the County Medical Officer for his consideration. Provided that these requirements are fulfilled, no charge is made to users.



### THE PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

The provision of services relating to the care of mothers and young children, midwifery, health visiting, home nursing, immunisation and vaccination, ambulance and domestic help is the responsibility of the Surrey County Council as local health authority. Day-to-day administration has been delegated to the Southern Divisional Health Sub-Committee and its officers, with headquarters at "Caberfeigh", Hatchlands Road, Redhill, (telephone No. Redhill 3206).

For convenience of reference, details of clinics are set out in tabular form.

Type of Clinic	Location	Time of Session
Maternity and Child Welfare Centres	Ewhurst Village Hall.	1st & 3rd Fri. 2 p.m.
	Peaslake Old School Room.	2nd & 4th Mon. 2 p.m.
	Holly Bush, Holmbury St. Mary.	2nd & 4th Fri. 2 p.m.
	The Vicarage, Betchworth.	1st Tues. 2 p.m.
	Brockham Homes, Brockham.	1st & 3rd Fri. 2 p.m.
	Wesley Hall, Capel.	2nd & 4th Thurs. 2 p.m.
	Parish Hall, Charlwood.	2nd & 4th Wed. 2 p.m.
	R.A.F. Rehabilitation Unit, Headley Court.	2nd & 4th Wed. 2 p.m.
	Congregation School Room, Walton-on-the-Hill.	1st & 3rd Tues. 2 p.m.
	Mansion House, Leatherhead.	Fri. 2 p.m.
	Village Hall, N. Holmwood.	1st & 3rd Thurs. 2 p.m.
	Health Centre, Station Rd. Horley.	1st & 3rd Wed. a.m. and Fri. 2 p.m.
	Health Centre, Leigh.	2nd Mon. 2 p.m.
	Village Hall, Newdigate. (Voluntary)	3rd Tues. 2 p.m.
	Village Hall, Ockley.	1st & 3rd Fri. 2 p.m.
	Parish Hall, Salfords.	2nd & 4th Tues. 2 p.m.
	Dene Street, Dorking.	Mon. & Wed. 2 p.m.
	Reading Room, Westcott.	2nd & 4th Mon. 2 p.m.
Ante-Natal	Dorking General Hospital.	Fri. 9.30 a.m.
	Welfare Centre, Station Road, Horley.	Wed. 2 p.m.
	Redhill County Hospital,	Tues 1.30 p.m.
	Mansion House, Leatherhead.	Tues. 1.30 p.m.
	Epsom District Hospital, Dorking Road, Epsom.	Mon. & Thurs. 1.30 p.m.



Clinics (cont.)

Type of Clinic	Location	Time of Session
Dental	Health Centre, Station Rd. Horley	By Appointment
Remedial Exercises	" " "	" "
Tuberculosis	Health Centre, Dene St. Dorking.	Fri. 10 a.m.
	Redhill County Hospital, Earlswood Common, Redhill.	1st & 3rd Mon. 2 p.m. Wed. 9.30 a.m. Thurs. 2nd & 4th 2 p.m. Fri. 3rd 2 p.m.
	Epsom District Hospital, Dorking Road, Epsom.	Tues & Thurs. 2 p.m. 3rd Thurs. 5.30 p.m.
Family Planning Association Clinic	Redhill County Hospital. Earlswood Common, Redhill.	Tues. 6-7.30 p.m. (except the Tuesday following a bank holiday)
	Dorking General Hospital.	Tues. 6-7.30 p.m. (except the Tuesday following a bank holiday)
	Epsom District Hospital.	Fri. 7 p.m.
Venereal Diseases	St. John's Hospital, Redhill.	Males: Mon. 5-7 p.m.
	Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford.	Males: Tues. & Fri. 5-7 p.m. Females: Mon. 2-7 p.m. Thurs. 9.30-11 a.m.
	St. Helier Hospital, Carshalton.	Males: Mon. 4-6.30 p.m. Females: Wed. 5-7 p.m.
	(and at the Out-Patient Department of many London Hospitals).	

IMMUNISATION AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus and vaccination against smallpox can be obtained from medical practitioners under the terms of the National Health Service Act, or on application at the County Council Health Centres.

The names of children born in the years 1947 - 1957 can be registered with the Surrey County Council for vaccination against poliomyelitis. Shortage of material caused a considerable delay in giving the treatment in many cases.

B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis is available for children aged between 13 and 14 years, and for all children who have been in close contact with cases of pulmonary tuberculosis.

Details of the numbers treated in these various procedures will be found in Section 6 of this report.



## FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

Two branches of the Family Planning Association are active in the district. The Dorking Branch of the Association, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. G. H. Woodman, provides a weekly clinic at the Dorking General Hospital with the consent of the Hospital Management Committee and the Medical Superintendent. The Reigate, Redhill and District Family Planning Association, under the Chairmanship of the Hon. Lady Farrer, provides a similar clinic at the Redhill County Hospital. The medical staff is appointed by the Association and is assisted by voluntary workers. The work of the Association is concerned with the teaching of methods of contraception to married persons, with the investigation of cases of sub-fertility, and with the solution of difficulties connected with marriage relationships.

## VENereal DISEASES

The Regional Hospital Board is the authority responsible for the administration of matters dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Diseases.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS. 1948 and 1951

Section 47 of the Act of 1948 gave power to local authorities to take steps to deal with persons suffering from chronic illness or infirmity, who for one reason or another are not receiving proper care and attention, and who are unable to manage for themselves. As might be expected, the majority of these are old people who, in addition to physical illness, have some loss of mental power sufficient to curtail their reasoning powers but not serious enough to require their admission to hospitals for mental illness.

Under the 1948 Act, power was given to the local authority to apply to the Magistrates' Court for an Order to obtain the removal, for a period not exceeding three months, of a person found in such conditions. As the result of experience, it was found that the time taken to comply with the legal requirements of the Act in obtaining an Order for removal was so long that the practical value of the powers given by the Act to local authorities was curtailed. An amending Act which came into force in 1951 enabled authorities to adopt a more expeditious procedure in cases requiring urgent attention.

No action was taken under this section during the year, though investigation was called for in several cases.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAWATER SUPPLIES

Three water undertakings distribute water in the various parishes of the rural district; they are the East Surrey Water Company, The Dorking Water Company, and the Guildford, Godalming and District Water Board.

The Dorking Water Company serves the parishes of Capel, Holmwood and Ockley, and obtains its water from a series of 15 wells sunk into the Folkestone beds on the western outskirts of Dorking. The water is chlorinated before distribution.

The East Surrey Water Company supplies the parishes of Betchworth, Buckland, Charlwood, Headley, Horley, Newdigate, Leigh and the Ranmore area of the parish of Wotton. Most of its water is obtained from deep wells in the chalk of the North Downs, and is softened and chlorinated before distribution.

The parishes of Abinger and part of the parish of Wotton are supplied by the Guildford, Godalming and District Water Board with water from deep bore holes in the greensand in Guildford rural district.

The chemical and bacteriological quality of the water supplies of these undertakings has remained consistently satisfactory and of a high standard of purity.

Typical results of chemical analysis of water supplied by the Dorking Water Company, the East Surrey Water Company, and the Guildford, Godalming and District Water Board, are as follows:-

	Dorking Water Co.	East Surrey Water Co.	Guildford Water Board
pH	7.06	9.1	7.4
Electric Conductivity	330	230	295
Chlorine as Chloride	18	20	17.2
Hardness:			
(i) Temporary	100	46	110
(ii) Permanent	50	48	42
Nitrate Nitrogen	4.8	5.8	5.9
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil	Nil	None
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000	0.030	0.00
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000	0.000	0.005
Metals			
Iron less than	0.03	Nil	0.66
Zinc	0.8	Nil	Less than 0.2
Others	Nil	Nil	Absent
Free Carbon Dioxide	16	Nil	-
Total Solids	220	155	220
Oxygen absorbed	0.25	Nil	0.08
Residual Chlorine	Absent	0.19	-
Results are in parts per million			

The results of bacteriological examinations have, without exception, shown the complete absence of coliform organisms.



### WATER SAMPLING

A total of 65 samples of water were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination during 1957, the results being as follows:-

Type of Sample	Dorking Water Company	East Surrey Water Company	Wells	Springs
Bacterio-logical	S U 1 -	8 -	3 18	7 8
Chemical	S U 20 -	- -	- -	- -
Totals	21	8	21	15

S = Satisfactory.      U = Unsatisfactory

### EXTENSION OF PIPED SUPPLIES

A small mains extension was carried out during the year to serve five dwellings at Abinger Hammer, at a cost estimated to be £691 and towards which the respective owners agreed to contribute the sum of £150.

A total of 215 premises were connected to the water mains, the details being as follows:-

	<u>New Houses (including conversions)</u>		<u>Existing Houses</u>
	<u>Private</u>	<u>Local Authority</u>	
Dorking Water Company	50	-	-
East Surrey Water Company	75	90	-
Guildford, Godalming & District Water Board		Information not available	

### PREMISES DEPENDENT ON PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

Despite the progress that has been made in the provision of piped water supplies over the past 10 years, there are several areas where piped water from a public supply is still urgently needed. These are Broadmoor, the Leith Hill area of the parish of Wotton, Friday Street and King George's Hill in the parish of Wotton; the Trap Lane area of the parish of Ockley, and the Rusper Road area in the parish of Capel.



### Premises dependent on Private Water Supplies (cont.)

Before dealing with each area in turn however, a few observations on alternative supplies generally may not be out of place. Such supplies derive from three sources (a) wells (b) springs (c) rainwater.

(a) Wells Information available in the department shows that 79 dwellings in the rural district depend upon wells for water supplies. Experience has shown that in such cases the water usually falls below the bacteriological standards now considered desirable. During the past five years, of 138 well water samples examined 101 or 73.9% have been shown to be unfit for human consumption. As a necessary precaution the consumers have been advised to boil the water for five minutes or chemically treat it before drinking or domestic use. In addition to the unsatisfactory nature of these supplies, instances occurred annually where the wells ran dry. The wells in this district being "shallow" wells are really collecting sumps for rainwater which in its passage through the soil becomes polluted with animal or vegetable matter. In this connection the term "shallow" has no reference to the depth of the well but to whether or not the well pierces an impervious stratum, and thereby taps underground water as distinct from surface water. A well passing through such an impervious stratum is referred to as a "deep" well. In this connection one very significant feature must be borne in mind - in virtually every case where a dwelling is dependent on a well for water it is also provided with a pail closet, the contents of which have to be buried at intervals at varying distances from the well itself.

(b) Spring Water So far as is known 71 dwellings depend upon spring water supplies. Although the quality of spring water from a bacteriological point of view is an improvement on well water, it still leaves much to be desired. Of the 37 samples of spring water examined over the past five years 10, or 27%, were reported to be unfit for human consumption. Apart from the question of purity the use of spring water occasions considerable physical labour, as the collecting point may be as much as 150 yards away from the dwelling. I have no record that any of the spring supplies have actually failed in times of drought.

(c) Rainwater So far as is known only one dwelling in the rural district depends entirely upon rainwater, and is provided with adequate storage capacity.

### PREMISES WITHOUT A PIPED WATER SUPPLY

The number of occupied houses without piped water supplies, within reasonable distance, is as follows:-

Parish	Wells	Springs	No. Supply	Total
Abinger	61	7	-	68
Betchworth	1	-	-	1
Buckland	-	-	-	-
Capel	-	3	9	12
Charlwood	2	-	-	2
Headley	-	-	-	-
Horley	4	-	-	4
Holmwood	-	14	-	14
Leigh	-	-	-	-
Newdigate	8	-	-	8
Ockley	3	-	-	3
Wotton	-	47	-	47
TOTAL	79	71	9	159



### Premises without a Piped Water Supply (cont.)

Further details of the areas without a piped supply of water are as follows:-

#### Broadmoor and Leith Hill

In these combined areas there are approximately 32 dwellings without a piped water supply. These areas are linked together since the Guildford, Godalming and District Water Board consider they are interdependent so far as the provision of piped water is concerned.

It became apparent towards the end of the year that the bacteriological quality of the water supply to some 13 dwellings owned by the National Trust in the Leith Hill area had, to some extent, deteriorated. In conjunction with the National Trust a careful investigation was made into possible reasons for this deterioration. As is well known, the area abounds with natural springs and the provision of water supply in the past has been achieved by the construction of a series of catchpits leading to reservoirs, the largest of which has a capacity of about 30,000 gallons. Within approximately 20 yards of the largest and most important source of supply there are two cottages which, although provided with sinks and wash-hand basins, use pail closets and bury the contents in the gardens. Although this was the only apparent source of pollution other catchpits were found to contain vegetable matter and to be partially covered with soil. Remedial measures included the discontinuance of certain catchpits, new sink drainage, and revised arrangements for disposal of pail closet contents. Proper covers were also provided to other spring catchpits. The absence of a constant supply of water under pressure to the two cottages hampered the provision of cesspool and water closets. Since this work has been carried out bacteriological tests have shown an improvement in the water supply.

In view of the change in the quality of the water an enquiry was made of the Guildford, Godalming and District Water Board's Engineer as to the prospects of providing a piped water supply to this area. To serve this area none of the Board's existing reservoirs is high enough to set over the high ground along the public road. A new storage reservoir of approximately 100,000 gallons capacity would, therefore, be required in the vicinity of Leith Hill. To feed this new reservoir new booster pumps would have to be installed in Abinger Common, and a new pumping main from the pump to the Leith Hill reservoir, in addition to which an additional works would be required. As will be realised from the details of the proposed works, the cost of such a scheme would be considerable.

An alternative supply from the Dorking Water Company's mains at Coldharbour is also under consideration.

#### Abinger Bottom and Friday Street

The dwellings in these two separate areas are supplied by natural springs and at Friday Street there is a shallow dip well which is also in use. Some of the springs situated between these two areas have been piped, and originally served Wotton House, and to the north of the Guildford, Dorking Road and Deerleap Cottages. With the extension of the main in the Hollow Lane area, the use of this water has been discontinued except by "The Stephen Langton" Public House, and two or three cottages in the Friday Street area. The bacteriological quality of the water is variable but, so far as I am aware, no shortage of water has been reported.



### Abinger Bottom and Friday Street, (cont.)

The Guildford, Godalming and District Water Board have proposals to extend their mains to serve these areas but in view of this cost the Council decided to ask the respective owners if they were prepared to make any capital contribution. This matter was still outstanding at the end of the year.

### Parish of Capel

The properties affected are along the Rusper Road from a point near Pleystow House to Lower Gages Farm. The Dorking Water Company prepared a scheme for this area which was estimated to cost £3,494.

Apart from the question of polluted supplies there is an acute shortage in this area which is met in part by the carting of water to the premises affected by and at the cost of the owner. The quality of the water so supplied, by the nature of the mode of conveyance, must be extremely suspect. In view of the present financial restrictions, and the number of premises involved, it is doubtful whether much progress will be possible for some time in meeting the needs of this area.

### Parish of Ockley

In the Trap Lane area of the parish of Ockley there are six dwellings which depend upon shallow wells for water. Not only is this water grossly contaminated but in addition the wells fail practically each year. There is, therefore, an urgent demand for a piped supply. The Guildford, Godalming and District Water Board's estimate for supply to this area is £1,968 and in view of this cost the Council decided to invite contributions from owners. At the end of the year this matter also was unresolved.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The main drainage systems which have been extended in six of the twelve parishes were last briefly described in my report for 1950, and are now again reviewed. The parish of Abinger is added to the list as a result of recent work.

### Abinger

The construction of a much needed length of sewer (approximately 785 yards) to serve 22 dwellings in the hamlet of Abinger Hammer was completed during the year at a cost of approximately £10,602. This sewer discharges into the sewers of Guildford Rural District Council for ultimate treatment in the Guildford Borough Sewage Disposal Works.

### Betchworth

A portion of the parish has been sewered by a gravitational system discharging to a pumping station in the Wonham Lane whence the sewage is lifted to the sewer of the Dorking Urban District Council for treatment by that authority. Apart from the development of a new housing estate at Strood Green there has been no major change in the sewerage of the parish.

### Capel

The parish of Capel has a smaller and much older system of sewerage, serving the built-up area of the village of Beare Green. The sewers discharge gravitationally to a treatment plant comprising settlement tanks, pumping plant and four filter beds. Some proportion of the sewage after settlement is treated by broad irrigation.



### Capel (cont.)

Since 1950 the sewers have been extended to serve the White Hart Estate, and the Misbrooks Green areas, and the new Council estate at Bennetts Wood.

### Charlwood

The former sewerage system of Charlwood Village which served only 26 houses has now been replaced by a comprehensive system serving the entire village and discharging via two pumping stations to the Horley Sewage Works. This work was completed in 1957 at an approximate cost of £130,000 and at the end of the year the work of sewer connections was proceeding apace.

### Holmwood

The parish of Holmwood is covered by a fairly extensive system of sewerage discharging to a small disposal works at Henfold Lane. Apart from an extension of sewer to serve the Warwick Road Housing Estate no extension to this system has taken place since 1950.

The condition of the works and of the effluent continues to occasion the greatest anxiety and the Thames Conservancy has drawn attention to the fact that the effluent does not comply with the recommended standards of purity. Proposals for a new disposal works sited at Six Acre Copse at Broad Lane, Newdigate, to replace the Holmwood Works and to serve part of the parish of Newdigate are in course of preparation, and it is hoped will be brought to completion without undue delay.

### Horley

The parish of Horley is served by a comprehensive scheme of sewerage discharging to a modern treatment plant in Lee Street, Horley. The system is a separate one, and deals with foul drainage only as distinct from a combined system which caters for both foul and surface water sewage in the same pipe.

The treatment plant consists of automatic electric pumps, settling tanks, rotary sprinklers, humus tanks and sludge-drying beds and was designed to deal with a dry weather flow of 370,000 gallons per day. Since 1950 there have been extension of the sewers to serve additional houses in Meath Green Lane, and in Smallfield Road, in addition to many lengths of new sewer provided in connection with the development of new estates.

In 1957 the parish of Charlwood was provided with a new and comprehensive system of sewerage which discharges to the Horley Sewage Disposal Works. In addition the Council undertook to receive and treat sewage from the new Gatwick Airport. Apart from housing, the industrial area at Salfords has also expanded, and the sum total of all this development is that the works now receive an average dry weather flow of over 800,000 gallons. The Council have instructed their consulting Engineer to prepare plans for the enlargement of the Horley Sewage Works which it is hoped will be put in hand without any unnecessary delay.

The small pumping station formerly in use on the Horley Gardens Estate has become redundant, but the two pumping stations at Salfords and Meadowcroft Close have continued in operation.

### Ockley

The parish of Ockley is served by two small disposal works consisting of screening chambers, settling tanks, filters, syphoning chambers, and humus tanks which have functioned satisfactorily.



### SEWER CONNECTIONS

Three hundred and forty-three houses were connected to the Council's sewers during the year, 193 to new sewers, of which 22 were in Abinger and 171 in Charlwood. The remainder were new houses connected to existing sewers in Betchworth, Capel and Horley.

### CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The Council has continued its undertaking to empty cesspools six times a year without further charge or the equivalent of twelve loads if the capacity of the cesspool is less than 1,500 gallons.

Disposal is by tipping - most of which can only be described as crude, but at Stanhill, Charlwood, treatment by broad irrigation is carried out and at Parkhurst Corner by settlement and filtration. It must be confessed, however, that the disposal of cesspool contents leaves much to be desired, and the provision of special facilities at new sewage disposal works to deal with cesspool contents is a venture the outcome of which is eagerly awaited.

During the year the administration of the cesspool emptying service was brought under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector, whilst the responsibility for maintenance of vehicles and crews remained with the Engineer and Surveyor. Whilst this division of responsibility may at first sight appear cumbersome, and likely to provide difficulties in operation, in practice the service has functioned well, and the number of complaints concerning this service has become negligible.

### PAIL CLOSETS

The Council has not undertaken the collection and disposal of pail closet contents which, as heretofore, remain the responsibility of the private householder.

### SWIMMING POOLS

There are two open air swimming pools in the district to which the public is admitted. Three samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination, with satisfactory reports.

### MORTUARY FACILITIES

The following arrangements are in force in the rural district with regard to the provision of mortuary services:-

#### Parishes of Horley and Charlwood

The Horley mortuary was not used during the year for the reasons stated in my last report. The arrangement with the Redhill Hospital Management Committee for the use of the mortuary and post mortem room at the Redhill County Hospital proved satisfactory. Eighteen bodies were removed for examination.



### Mortuary Facilities (cont.)

#### Other Parishes

By agreement with Leatherhead Urban District Council, use is made of the mortuary facilities provided by that Council, the cost being apportioned on the basis of the rateable value of the districts concerned. The cost to this Council is approximately £18 per annum. During the year 8 bodies were dealt with under this arrangement.

One body was removed to the mortuary of the Epsom and Ewell Corporation at a time when the Leatherhead mortuary was without an attendant.

With regard to the southernmost portions of the district an agreement is in force between Horsham Urban Council and this Council for the use of that authority's mortuary when required. During the year, however, no use was made of this facility.



FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The following return has been made to the Ministry of Labour and National Service in accordance with Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prose- cuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	47	13	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	84	22	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	131	35	-	-

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were					Prose- cutions Insti- tuted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. By H.M. Inspec- tor	Inspec- tor		
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences						
(a) Insufficient	4	4	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	-	-	-	-



Factories and Workshops (cont.)

The 131 premises on the Register of Factories on the 31st December, 1957, were as follows:-

	Non-Mechanical Power	Mechanical Power
Addressograph Manufacturers	-	1
Agricultural Engineers	-	4
Aircraft Repairers	-	2
Bakers	3	4
Ball Bearing Manufacturers	-	1
Band Saw Makers	-	1
Boot and Shoe Repairers	7	2
Brickworks	-	8
Builders' Workshops	9	3
Cycle Repairers	7	1
Drawing Office Equipment Manufacturers	-	1
Electrical Engineers	-	1
Engineers	-	7
Explosive Manufacturers	-	1
Fine Art Stationery Manufacturers	-	1
Furniture Makers	4	1
Fur Processors	-	1
General Engineers	-	3
Garages and Motor Engineers	2	18
Instrument Makers	1	1
Laundries	-	3
Lime Works	-	1
Plastic Manufacturers	-	1
Portable Building Makers	-	3
Printers	-	3
Radio Repairers	5	1
Research Laboratories	-	3
Rubber Tyre Processing	-	1
Sawyers	-	2
Super Charger Manufacturers	-	1
Tailors	2	1
Tool Makers	-	3
Undertakers	3	1
Watch Repairers	4	1
Valet and Dry Cleaners	-	3
	<u>47</u>	<u>84</u>



Returns relating to the demolition, closing and repair of houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts are now submitted quarterly to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. An abridged summary of which, for the year, is set out below:-

1.	<u>Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year</u>	
(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). (This figure includes premises inspected in connection with Improvement Grant applications)	876
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,243
2.	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.  (No houses were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 for the reason that following the completion of the "Hobhouse" Survey all dwellings to which the Regulations were considered to apply, have been inspected and recorded).	-
3.	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	49
4.	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	52
11.	<u>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.</u>	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	39
11.	<u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</u>	
(a)	<u>Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	29
2.	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a)	By owners	26
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	-



Housing (cont.)

III. (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring to be remedied.
  2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices
    - (a) By owners
    - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners
- (c) Proceedings under Sects 11 and 13  
of the Housing Act. 1936
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made
  2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the  
Housing Act. 1936.
1. Number of separate tenements of underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made
  2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit
  3. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were received that the premises would not be re-occupied until made reasonably fit for human habitation

15

More information relating to the work of the Public Health Department in respect of housing conditions is to be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Chief Public Health Inspector's report contains information on the work done in connection with the inspection of premises used in the preparation of food, with the inspection of food and with the supervision of the storage and sale of ice-cream.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The Surrey County Council continued to administer the sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, dealing with the adulteration of food. I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the information that a total of 79 samples for analysis were taken in this district by his staff. Of these, 63 were of milk, 2 of cooked meat and the remainder of miscellaneous articles of foodstuffs. Two samples of cooked meat and one of milk were found to be below standard.

The information was also given that within that part of the County in which the County Council acts as Food and Drugs authority a total of 908 samples were taken for analysis, including 655 of milk. Thirty-nine samples were found to be adulterated or irregular, 11 of these being of milk and 18 of cooked and prepared meat. Legal proceedings were instituted and convictions obtained against two dairy farmers, one for selling Channel Islands milk deficient in milk fat and the other for selling Channel Islands milk containing added water.



PREVENTION OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Included in Table I are the incidence and death rates of various infectious diseases. These are expressed per 1,000 population with the exception of the rate for puerperal pyrexia which is estimated per 1,000 live and still births. Figures for 1956 are reproduced for purposes of comparison.

Table IV shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1957, classified according to age and sex. Table V shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases in each of the twelve parishes.

SMALLPOX

No case of smallpox was notified during the year.

Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year notifications were received from medical practitioners of 391 primary vaccinations and 259 re-vaccinations which had been performed by them. Of the primary vaccinations 300 related to children under the age of one year, equivalent to 5% of the number of births registered in the district during the year. This compares with a recent estimated vaccination rate of 38% for England and Wales.

SCARLET FEVER

Five cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year, with an incidence rate of 0.17 per 1,000 population. There was no mortality from the disease, which continued to be of a mild type.

In a revision of its rules dealing with the exclusion from school of children suffering from, or in contact with, infectious diseases, the Surrey Education Committee decided that no routine exclusion was necessary for the contacts of cases of scarlet fever, unless the contact was normally engaged in the preparation or service of school meals. This change allows the Public Health Department to deal with the school population in the same way as it does with the non-school population. Thus any action with regard to the exclusion of contacts from school or work will depend on the circumstances found in each case.

DIPHTHERIA

For the ninth year in succession no case of diphtheria was notified in the Rural District.

Reference to Table VI indicates the decline which has taken place in the incidence of this disease.

IMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Treatment can be obtained from general practitioners under the terms of the National Health Service Act, or from clinics arranged by the local health authority, these being held at regular intervals at all Infant Welfare Clinics serving the district, of which details are set out on pages 9 and 10. These arrangements are intended primarily for



### Immunisation against Diphtheria (cont.)

infants and others under school age. Clinics in schools have been organised by the Divisional Medical Officer for pupils requiring treatment, usually the reinforcing course. The aim is for every child to receive the primary treatment within its first year of life, and to be given reinforcing treatments at intervals of 3 to 4 years up to the end of school life. It is not claimed that absolute immunity will be attained for every child, but there is clear evidence that the risk of an untreated child contracting diphtheria is four times as great as that of an immunised child, and that the risk of death is nearly thirty times as great.

Notifications were received from medical practitioners and clinics that 449 children received primary treatment and 327 reinforcing treatment. The following figures show how the facilities for treatment have been used.

	<u>Primary Treatment</u>	<u>Reinforcing Doses</u>
Treated at Clinics and Schools	152	288
Treated by General Practitioners	<u>297</u>	<u>39</u>
	449	327
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

In 328 infants the treatment was completed before reaching the age of one year, representing 65% of the number of births registered during the year.

It is estimated that 56% of children under the age of 15 years had been treated in the period 1953-57 and were, therefore, still in an effective state of immunity. The comparable figure for 1956 was 55%. These figures are almost identical with those of the County of Surrey as a whole,

### WHOOPING COUGH

Forty cases of whooping cough were notified compared with 96 in the previous year. The incidence rate was 1.37 per 1,000 population. No death was registered as due to this disease.

### Immunisation against Whooping Cough

Notifications were received from medical practitioners and clinics that 410 children had received treatment. In 405 the primary treatment was combined with diphtheria immunisation, and in 129 of these immunisation against tetanus was also included.

### MEASLES

Five hundred and sixty-nine cases of measles were notified during the year compared with 96 in 1956. The increased incidence was not unexpected, as this disease tends to appear in epidemic form in alternative years. No death from the disease was recorded.



## ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

### Incidence

Five cases of paralytic poliomyelitis were notified during the year. There was no apparent association between any of the cases, two of which occurred in the third quarter of the year and the remainder in the fourth quarter. The age of the youngest case was 17 years and the eldest 35 years. In two patients the illness was severe, resulting in serious crippling, which required prolonged hospital treatment. One of the patients died of influenzal broncho pneumonia.

Three of the cases were residents of Horley, one of Newdigate and one of Ockley.

### Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

Vaccination against poliomyelitis must now take first place in the means of prevention of this disease. It is too early yet to know how effective the vaccine at present in use will be, and it will be a few years before a complete picture can be obtained of the strength and duration of its protective powers. In spite of this, and taking into consideration the nature of the disease and the ineffectiveness of other methods of controlling it, the advice must be given that the first opportunity should be taken for every child to be given the vaccine. Because of shortage of the material there is, at present, a waiting list for the treatment. This should not deter parents from making application on behalf of children born in the period 1947 - 1957.

The Divisional Medical Officer reports that 771 children resident in the rural district were vaccinated by his staff during the year. In addition 45 children were treated by their family doctors with material obtained from the local health authority. The number treated in 1956 was 98, bringing the total to 914. It is estimated that there are some 6,000 children in the age group concerned.

## PARATYPHOID FEVER

One case of paratyphoid B infection was notified. The patient was a resident in the Parish of Horley, and the infection was contracted in the course of continental travel.

## PUERPERAL PYREXIA

The fact that one notification only of puerperal pyrexia was received is liable to be misleading. There is an administrative procedure by which a notification of puerperal pyrexia is allocated to the district in which the patient is resident at the time of onset. A large number of confinements of residents of the Rural District take place each year in hospitals which are situated in other districts, particularly in Redhill and Dorking. Cases of puerperal pyrexia occurring in those institutions are assigned to the areas in which the hospitals are located, thus tending to raise the notification rate in the districts concerned and to lower it in the Rural District. One such case was reported during the year.

## TETANUS

No case of tetanus was reported during the year. However this condition is not notifiable and it is possible for the illness to occur without coming to the notice of the Public Health Department, unless it proceeds to a fatal termination.



### Immunisation against Tetanus

The County Council's immunisation arrangements now include vaccination against tetanus. This vaccine may be given separately or may be combined with the agents used for immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough. Treatment may be obtained from the family doctor or from a children's clinic. During the year 139 children were treated, 130 with the vaccine in combination.

### PROTECTION AGAINST OTHER DISEASES

Protective inoculation against other infectious diseases, such as enteric fever, cholera, yellow fever, etc., is necessary in the case of persons proposing to visit foreign countries where these diseases are endemic, and is usually undertaken at approved centres. The International Certificate required in such cases must be authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the vaccinator practises.

### TUBERCULOSIS

#### Register of Notified Persons

During the year the names of 42 persons were added to the tuberculosis register, and 27 were removed. Details of these alterations are as follows:-

##### Additions to Register

Primary notifications relating to persons already residing in the district

11

Transfer of persons notified in other areas, now residing in this district

31

42

—

##### Removals from Register

By removals to other districts

10

By recovery

13

By death

4 \*

—

27

—

\*

In 3 cases the cause of death of the notified person was not attributed to tuberculosis on the death certificate.

At the end of the year the number of names on the register was 175 compared with 160 in the previous year.

#### Notification of Tuberculosis

Eleven primary notifications of tuberculosis were received from medical practitioners of persons certified to be suffering from that disease. These concerned residents of the district in which the disease was recognised for the first time. In Table IV they are classified by sex and age, and in Table V by parish of residence. They included 3 cases of the non-pulmonary type of disease.

Other names added to the register were those of 31 persons who came to live in the district, having previously been notified in other areas.



## Tuberculosis (cont.)

### Deaths from Tuberculosis

One death from pulmonary tuberculosis was registered, giving a death-rate of 0.03 per 1,000 population, compared with a rate of 0.09 for England and Wales.

There was one death from the non-respiratory form of the disease.

Table VII illustrates the satisfactory trend which the mortality figures for tuberculosis have assumed in recent years.

### B.C.G. Vaccination

This treatment is available through the Chest Physician to contacts in the family of tuberculous persons, if preliminary skin testing shows that they have not already been infected. It has also been offered to children aged between 13 and 14 years at both maintained and independent schools.

The treatment in schools is carried out by the staff of the Divisional Medical Officer who has provided figures in relation to the work done in local schools in 1957.

Number consenting to treatment	182
Number Mantoux tested	159
Number giving a negative reaction	130 (81.8%)
Number giving a positive reaction	29 (18.2%)
Number of negative reactors vaccinated	129

### Tuberculosis Care Committee

There are voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committees in Dorking and Reigate which work in close association with local chest clinics and hospitals. The assistance granted to tuberculous persons and their dependants included the supply of extra nourishment, fuel, bedding, clothes and sick room requisites, etc., and the payment of fares, pocket money and other incidental expenses which could not be met from official sources.



TABLE I. COMPARATIVE BIRTH, DEATH AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES, AND INCIDENCE RATES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR THE YEARS 1956 - 1957.

	1956	1957
<u>Rates per 1,000 Population</u>		
<u>BIRTHS</u>		
Live Births	15.9	17.3
Still Births	0.21	0.34
<u>DEATHS</u>		
All Causes	9.5	10.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis	0.07	0.07
Influenza	0.04	0.17
Smallpox	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-
Pneumonia	0.28	0.24
<u>NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)</u>		
Typhoid Fever	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	0.04	0.03
Meningococcal Infection	0.04	-
Scarlet Fever	0.70	0.17
Whooping Cough	3.38	1.37
Diphtheria	-	-
Erysipelas	0.14	0.14
Smallpox	-	-
Measles	3.48	19.45
Pneumonia	0.53	0.58
Poliomyelitis, paralytic	0.07	0.17
non-paralytic	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	0.17
Dysentery	1.16	0.10
Tuberculosis	0.81	0.38
<u>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</u>		
<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u>		
Under 1 year of age	20.0	23.8
Under 4 weeks of age	8.9	23.8
<u>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live &amp; Still) Births</u>		
Still Births	13.1	19.42
Puerperal Pyrexia (Notification of)	0.04	1.24
Maternal Mortality	-	1.94



CENTENARY BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES 1931 - 1957  
DECENNIAL AVERAGES 1931 - 1950. ANNUAL 1951 to 1957.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Death Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate of Children under 1 year of age, per 1,000 Live Births			
		England and Wales	Dorking and Horley	England and Wales	Dorking and Horley	England and Wales	
1931-1940	14.9	14.1		12.2	(10.6) +	57.1	45.3
1941-1950	17.02	17.4	15.8 (15.5) +	11.7	11.3	42.6	32.0
1951	15.5		16.5 (16.2)	12.5	12.4 (11.3)	29.6	19.4
1952	15.3		15.6 (16.5)	11.3	11.1 (10.1)	27.6	9.2
1953	15.5		15.8 (16.8)	11.4	9.3 (8.4)	26.3	14.3
1954	15.2		14.8 (15.7)	11.3	9.0 (8.1)	25.4	18.3
1955	15.0		14.8 (15.7)	11.7	10.7 (9.6)	24.9	24.3
1956	15.7		15.9 (16.9)	11.7	9.5 (9.2)	23.7	20.0
1957	16.1		17.3 (17.6)	11.5	10.9 (11.2)	23.0	22.3
							12

+ Bracketed figures represent standardised rates.



TABLE III

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT

	M	F	TOTAL
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	-	1	1
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	1	1
3. Syphilitic Disease	1	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	-	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	6	11
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	3	10
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	20	16	36
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-	2
16. Diabetes	1	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	31	30	61
18. Coronary disease angina	24	14	38
19. Hypertension with heart disease	6	-	6
20. Other heart disease	17	28	45
21. Other circulatory disease	7	12	19
22. Influenza	2	3	5
23. Pneumonia	5	2	7
24. Bronchitis	4	2	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	2	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	-	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	21	32
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	4	7
34. All other accidents	2	3	5
35. Suicide	1	5	6
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	156	162	318



TABLE IV

## NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES BY AGE AND SEX

	Under 1 year		1 - 4		5 - 9		10 - 14		15 - 24		25 - 44		45 - 64		65 years & over		All ages		Total all ages both sexes		
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	5	4	27	26	67	54	171	153	21	31	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis, Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



TABLE V

MULTIFACETED APPROACHES TO INFECTION DISEASES BY PATHOGENS



TABLE VI

## INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN THE DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT 1934-1957

Year	Number of cases notified	Incidence Rate per 1,000 Population	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Population
1934 - 1938	53	0.53	0.04
1939 - 1943	11	0.09	0.04
1944 - 1948	8	0.07	-
1949 - 1953	-	-	-
1954	-	-	-
1955	-	-	-
1956	-	-	-
1957	-	-	-



TABLE VII

TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY 1934 - 1957  
 (QUINQUENNIAL AVERAGES 1934-1953)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Notifications</u>	<u>Number of new Notifications</u>	<u>Notification Rate per 1,000 Population</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Death Rate per 1,000 Population</u>
1934 - 1938	19.0	19.0	0.77	12.4		0.62
1939 - 1943	20.4		0.90		11.0	0.46
1944 - 1948	24.4		1.05		10.8	0.48
1949 - 1953	19.8		0.73		4.2	0.16
1954	19		0.69		6	0.22
1955	10		0.36		5	0.18
1956	23		0.81		2	0.07
1957	11		0.38		2	0.07



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Council Offices,  
Chalkpit Lane,  
DORKING,

October, 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Dorking and Horley Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1957 on the work of the Public Health Department. This report, which only relates to public health work, does not purport to record all those phases of the Council's administration for which I am responsible. Nevertheless, I hope that what is recorded and commented on in the following pages will merit your approval.

I should like to express my appreciation to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee for his support and ready understanding of public health problems, and indeed to all members of the Public Health Committee for the patient way in which, month by month, they consider the various matters which I place before them. To the Medical Officer of Health my best thanks for all his help and advice, and to the members of my staff my indebtedness for their support and loyalty during 1957.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ERIC A. ATKINSON.

Chief Public Health Inspector.



PUBLIC HEALTH

Inspections and Visits

The total number of inspections and visits on various public health matters during 1957 was 2,532 as compared with 2,307 in 1956. Details are as follows:-

(a) Housing Act, 1936

Inspection of dwellings	362
"    re overcrowding	4
"    " housing applicants	17

(b) Housing Act, 1949

Visits re Improvement Grants (No. of premises improved during the year (see note on page 48) 48)	381
---	-----

(c) Rent Act, 1957

No. of Advisory Visits re Certificates of Disrepair and Rents (see note on page 48)	51
---	----

(d) Public Health Act, 1936

Inspection of dwellings	84
"    moveable dwellings	28
"    water supply	73
"    " drainage work	179
"    " defective cesspools	115
"    " ditches and watercourses	41
"    " smoke nuisances	13
Visits and Enquiries re Infectious illness	81
Number of rooms disinfected	8
Visits re Pests (Flies, Beetles, Rats, Etc)	54
"    " nuisance from animals	19

(e) Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Inspections re Bakehouses	30
"    " Butchers' Shops	27
"    " Cafes and Restaurants	48
"    " Dairies and Milkshops	10
"    " Farms and Cowsheds	3
"    " Ice Cream Dealers	12
"    " Licensed Premises	19
"    " Other Food Premises	18
Visits re Slaughterhouses	99
"    " inspect unsound food	33

(f) Sampling

No. of Samples taken for examination:-

Ice Cream	7
Milk	240
Water	97
Pathological Specimens	26



Inspections and Visits (cont.)

(g) Factories Act, 1937

Inspection of Factories	29
Visits re Outworkers	6
Visits re Means of Escape in Case of Fire	6

(h) Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

Inspection of Petroleum Installations 63

(i) Gatwick Airport

No. of visits re sanitation 23

(j) Pet Animals Act, 1951

## Inspection re Pet Shops 2

(k) Shops Act, 1950

No. of visits re sanitary provisions 1

(3) Other visits not classified

## NOTICES

### Housing Act, 1936

Served Complied with

## Section 9 -- repair of defective dwellings 29 24

**Public Health Act, 1936**

Section 37	- provision of drains to new buildings	2	1
" 39	- provision of drains to existing buildings	7	7
" 44	- insufficient or defective closet	1	1
" 50	- overflowing or leaking cesspools	21	12
" 58	- dangerous buildings	2	1
" 75	- provision of dustbins	1	1
" 93	- abatement of nuisance	10	2
" 259	- obstructed or choked ditches	7	5
" 268	- moveable dwellings	5	1

## Water Act. 1945

Section 30 - provision of piped water supply 4 3

## Clean Air Act, 1957

Section 16 - abatement of smoke  
nuisance 5 1



Notices (cont.)

Food and Drugs Act, 1955      Served      Complied with

(i)	Breach of Food Hygiene Regulations	27	15
(ii)	Milk and Dairies Regulations	2	1

Petroleum (Consolidated) Act, 1928

Breaches of licensing conditions	4	3
----------------------------------	---	---

Factories Act, 1937

Insufficient closet accommodation	4	4
-----------------------------------	---	---

One Statutory Notice was served during the year, under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936, and was complied with.

It will be observed that 4 notices were served in respect of insufficient or unsuitable sanitary accommodation. Large scale engineering works such as involved in the construction of Gatwick Airport, are subject to the requirements of the FACTORIES ACT, 1937 with regard to sanitary accommodation. But by virtue the remoteness of the site, the absence of readily available water supply, and drainage, together with the fact that a large proportion of the labour is mobile and progresses during the course of the work over considerable distances, such works pose special problems. It was, nevertheless, extremely disconcerting to find that in connection with a six million pound engineering project, it was apparently regarded without concern the fact that only two bucket lavatories were provided for 400 men and that even they had not been attended to for a fortnight. While I have never claimed for myself the role of a reformer, it must be recorded that the efforts to bring about an improvement were more than reminiscent of the efforts of the sanitary reformers of the early nineteenth century.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Legal proceedings were taken during the year under Section 50 of the Public Health Act, 1936 against the owner of a dwelling in the Parish of Capel following non-compliance with a notice to repair and enlarge the cesspool. On the 9th July, 1957 the Magistrates imposed a fine of £3 with £10. 10. 0. costs and ordered that the work be carried out in three months. The owner lodged and subsequently withdrew an appeal to Quarter Sessions. Further proceedings were taken following non-compliance with the Court Order, when a further fine of £50 and £10. 10. 0. costs was imposed. The owner then provided a new cesspool.

It may not be out of place here to comment that these proceedings amply demonstrate the difficulties which not infrequently face a local authority in securing the early abatement of conditions which, to say the least, are most unpleasant and are a risk to health. The offending cesspool leaked on to an adjoining garden to the acute discomfort of the occupiers' yet upwards of twelve months had to pass, despite recourse to the Courts, before conditions were remedied. I often wish it was more widely known that a local authority does not possess summary powers, but must rely on legal process to enforce the sanctions of public health law.

Legal proceedings were also taken against a milk retailer in respect of the supply of milk in dirty bottles to a school in the rural district. For the Council the Public Analyst stated that these bottles



## Legal Proceedings (cont.)

were contaminated with dirt and brown mould growth. For the dairy it was said that the firm handled 13,000 bottles of milk per day of which 2,000 were thirds (i.e. third of pint) bottles for schools, and that 99% of such bottles were returned from the schools unwashed. Details were also given of the firm's bottle washing arrangements. The Magistrates imposed a fine of £15 plus £9. 9. 0. costs, the Chairman commenting:-

"The Bench do not wish to be unmindful in any way of the difficulties of purveyors of milk especially in respect of the small bottles used for schools. But we feel this is an essential service of an extremely important nature. It is undertaken by dairies and they know the difficulties which might well in many cases be minimised by a more co-operative conduct by purchasers."

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Generally

The following details are extracted from the Register of Food Premises:-

	<u>No. in District</u>
Bakers Shops	5
Bakehouses	4
Butchers	14
Fishmongers	2
Cafes	24
Factory Canteens	7
Fried Fish Shops	2
Grocers	16
Greengrocers	12
Hotels	7
Ice-cream Dealers	58
Ice-cream Manufacturers	3
Public Houses	34
School Canteens and Kitchens	3
Snack Bars	<u>3</u>
	194

The number of visits that have been made to these 194 premises is an improvement on previous years figures (90), but although this improvement is notable I must confess that I am still not satisfied with the amount of attention that is being paid to premises where food is prepared or handled. It was not found possible to organise any talks on the clean handling of food (apart from the commendable efforts in this direction by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, in the parish of Herley) and indeed it is doubtful whether the number of persons likely to attend would justify the effort involved, or that they would be more than a very small proportion of the total number of persons involved in the handling of food in the district. The alternative to special courses of limited value would therefore appear to be to allow the Health Inspector sufficient time to spend in food establishments to advise and demonstrate the clean handling of food. This, however, is not possible with the existing staff and the responsibilities already attaching to the Department.



## Inspection and Supervision of Food (cont.)

### MILK

Two hundred and forty-nine samples of milk were taken for bacteriological or biological examination with the following results:-

	Bacteriological Tests		Biological Tests	
	Satisfactory	Failed	Satisfactory	Failed
Tuberculin Tested	50	9	2	-
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	29	1	-	-
Pasteurised	136	5 (a)	-	-
Sterilised	3	-	-	-
Ungraded	1	-	8	-
Cream	7	-	-	-
	226	15	10	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

(a) Two of the tests were void since the atmosphere shade temperature exceeded 65°F. The Regulations require that samples on arrival at the Laboratory shall be removed from the insulated container and kept at atmospheric shade temperature until the tests are begun, and the tests shall be commenced between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. on the day after the samples are taken.

The various tests that are applied to milk samples are briefly as follows:-

#### Methylene Blue reduction test

This test does not provide information as to the number or kinds of bacteria in a given sample, but it does afford a measure of the activity of the bacterial content. The majority of the organisms in milk are capable of affecting certain dyes, notably methylene blue and therefore the time taken to reduce or decolour methylene blue is taken as an index of the bacterial content.

Samples are presumed to satisfy the test if the time taken to decolourise methylene blue is not less than as follows:-

Nature of Sample	Time taken to decolourise methylene blue	
	Summer (a)	Winter (b)
Tuberculin tested milk	4½ hours	5½ hours
Pasteurised	30 minutes	30 minutes
Raw - ungraded	No prescribed time	
(a)	1st May - 31st October	
(b)	1st November - 30th April	



## Milk (cont.)

### Phosphatase Test

Raw or untreated milk contains two enzymes known as peroxidase and phosphatase, both of which are destroyed by heat. The object of the test is, therefore, to discover the presence of phosphatase or in other words to assess the efficiency or otherwise of the pasteurising process. Incidentally, the test will also reveal the presence of added raw milk. The results of the test are classified as follows:-

<u>Units of Blue</u>	<u>Results described as</u>
Below 2.3 units	Negative phosphatase test
2.3 - 6.0 units	Insufficiently heat treated
Over 6.0 units	Grossly under treated

### Turbidity Test

This test which is applied only to sterilised milk is designed to test the completeness of the sterilisation procedures by which milk in bottle is heated to a temperature of 212°F. After such treatment the milk is virtually sterile and should keep for an indefinite period.

### Biological Test

Also known as the guinea pig inoculation test; is used to detect the presence, or otherwise, of tubercle bacilli in milk. It consists in inoculating a prepared portion of a milk sample into the groin of a live guinea pig. The inoculated guinea pig is housed and fed for six weeks after which it is killed and a post mortem examination is carried out.

## REGISTRATION AND LICENCES

The number of persons on the Milk Retailers Register on the 31st December, 1957 was 23.

Fifty-three licences were issued in respect of graded milk as follows:-

	<u>Dealers</u>	<u>Supplementary</u>
Tuberculin Tested	8	11
Pasteurised	10	11
Sterilised	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
	25	28
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

## MEAT AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES

It is pleasing to be able to record once again that 100 per cent inspection was possible, and due acknowledgment must be made of the co-operation of the slaughterhouse operators who have done much to lighten the task of meat inspection.



Meat and Slaughterhouses (cont.)

The number of animals slaughtered in the 3 licensed slaughterhouses is given in the following table:-

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Goats
Number killed (if known)						
Charlwood	21	75	14	133	Nil	Nil
Ockley	8	10	2	165	-	-
Holmwood	-	-	-	10	-	-
Number inspected	29	85	16	318	-	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci Whole carcases condemned	-	1	-	5	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	2	-	19	-	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	10.3	3.5	-	1.5	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	4	-	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	7	-	-	1.2	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-



## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

### Slaughtermen's Licences

Six licences were issued to slaughtermen practising in the rural district.

### OTHER FOOD

#### Unsound Food

Thirty-three visits were made to food premises for the purpose of examining food reputed as being unfit for human consumption.

As a result of these visits the following quantities and types of foodstuffs were surrendered to the Public Health Inspectors as being unfit for human consumption:-

#### Canned Meats

Corned Beef	1 x 12-oz tin 99 x 6-lb "
Ham	252 - lbs 3 x 14½-oz tins 26 x 12 -oz "
Pork	1 x 12-lb tin
Ox Kidneys	31 - lbs
Ox Tongues	1 x 12-lb tins
Jellied Veal	6 - lbs
Beef and Ham Galantine	½ - lb
Sauerkraut	45 x 15oz tins

#### Horse Killed Meat

Pigs	Whole carcase Heads Livers	2 - 202 lbs 20-lbs 90-lbs
Beef		438-lbs

#### Canned Fruit

Pineapple	7 tins
Fruit Cocktail	1 tin

#### Other Foods

Chocolate XmasNovelties	156
-------------------------	-----

The total weight involved was approximately 13-cwts and 44-lbs and disposal was by treatment in the Reigate Corporation's Council Food Processing Plant.



### SWIMMING POOLS

There are two open air swimming pools in the district to which the public is admitted. Six samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination with satisfactory reports.

### MORTUARY FACILITIES

The following arrangements are in force in the rural district with regard to the provision of mortuary services:-

(i) Parishes of Horley and Charlwood

By arrangement with the Redhill Hospital Management Committee the use of the mortuary at the Redhill County Hospital is available as required. Here there are not only adequate arrangements but also the services of a complete pathological department available. At least one year's notice of the discontinuation of the arrangements would be given by the Hospital Committee.

(ii) Other Parishes

By agreement with Leatherhead Urban Council, use is made of the mortuary facilities provided by that Council, the cost being apportioned on the basis of the rateable value of the districts concerned. The cost to the Council is approximately £20 per annum.

With regard to the southernmost portions of the district an agreement is in force between Horsham Urban Council and this Council for the use of that authority's mortuary when required. During the year, however, no use was made of this facility

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are four established caravan sites in the district situated at:-

- (i) Rickwood, Beare Green
- (ii) New Close Farm, Beare Green
- (iii) Blue Ridges, Vann Lake Road, Ockley
- (iv) The Cottage Camp Site, Box Hill Road, Tadworth

With the exception of the site at New Close Farm, all these caravan sites were in existence prior to the appointed day fixed by the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and their use had, therefore, been established.



## HOUSING

During 1957 further consideration was given to the problem of the unfit house, and this time conditions in the parish of Capel were reviewed. The Hobhouse Survey in 1948 had shown that 43 houses were then regarded as unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable cost. Of these 43 houses a re-survey showed that 8 had been repaired and improved to a satisfactory standard, that 5 had been demolished, and that in respect of a further 3 the owners had given an undertaking that the cottages would not be re-occupied until made fit. Since 1948, however, the condition of some further 8 cottages had so deteriorated that they too had to be regarded as unfit. In the parish of Capel there were, therefore, 35 dwellings that were considered to be unfit for human habitation.

In respect of the following 12 premises the owners gave undertakings that the premises would not be re-occupied until made fit, and the Council undertook to rehouse the tenants as soon as alternative accommodation was available:-

Cottage, the Street, Capel  
The Ark, Beare Green  
Henfold Gate Cottage  
Kitlands Cottage, Coldharbour  
Nos. 1 - 2 Plough Cottages, Coldharbour  
Nos. 1 - 2 White Hart Cottages, Capel  
The Bothy, Mountfield, Coldharbour  
Nos. 1 - 2 Jolly Farmers Cottages, Capel  
Vine Cottage, Capel

The owners of the following 6 cottages voluntarily agreed to carry out such repairs and improvements as would make the premises reasonably fit for habitation:-

Nos. 1 - 2 Mosses Wood Cottages, Coldharbour  
Nos. 1 - 2 Rowe Mount Cottages, "  
The Haven, Hoyle Hill, Capel  
Ruggs Farm Bungalow, Capel

Consideration of a further seven cottages was deferred in order that the Committee could have an opportunity of discussing their condition with the owner.

Of the remaining 10 cottages, 5 were unoccupied, and consideration of these and the remaining 5 cottages was deferred.

Apart from the parish of Capel, the Council also gave consideration to unfit houses in the following parishes:-

Holmwood	8
Horley	3
Charlwood	4
Newdigate	1

As a result, undertakings by owners not to re-occupy until made fit were received in respect of:-

49, Balcombe Road, Horley  
"Greengates", Newdigate  
Yew Tree Bungalow, Horley

Undertakings to demolish in respect of:-

Nos. 1 - 8 Mill Bottom Cottages, Holmwood  
"Walhampton", Reigate Road, Hookwood  
Summerfield Cottage, Duxhurst  
Collendene Bungalow, Norwood Hill



## Housing (cont.)

Offers to carry out necessary works were accepted in respect of :-

2, Weavers Cottages, Charlwood  
67-69, Station Road, Horley

### HOUSING ACT. 1949 - IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

As in previous years the Council continued throughout 1957 to receive, consider and make grants towards the conversion or improvement of dwellings, and the investigation and supervision of this work has provided one of the health inspector's pre-occupation.

From the list of visits and inspections it will be noted that this work involved no fewer than 381 visits. It is worth recording that apart from accounting for 1/6th of the total visits it also accounts for approximately 1/6th of the total mileage undertaken by the department.

Sixty applications for improvement grants were received in respect of sixty-five dwellings. Fifty-two applications involving fifty-seven houses were approved, and grants totalling approximately £13,389. or £284 per dwelling made. Eight applications were refused for the following reasons:-

Work started prior to application	1
Premises not suitable for grant-aid	2
Work proposed not ranking for grant	3
Applicants' proposals not satisfactory	2

Of the 57 houses in respect of which grants were approved 24 were tenanted, and 33 owner/occupied.

Without in any way detracting from the valuable work of improvement which these figures represent I think it must be placed on record that the overall response to the assistance given by this Act is disappointing. There are a great many cottages in the rural district which ought to be improved, and which must be tackled in the immediate future if they are not to form part of some future slum clearance programme. The problem is how to encourage landlords to take advantage of the improvement grant facilities. It would seem that a personal approach to the landlord concerned might in some cases bring about the desired result; the alternative would appear to be the taking over of the property by the Council and subsequent recondition as a local authority enterprise. To say this is not to infer allegiance to any political dogma or creed, but it does acknowledge that unless some steps are taken now, further slum clearance programmes and replacement by local authority building becomes inevitable.

### RENT ACT, 1957

The Rent Act, 1957 came into operation on the 6th July, 1957 and had two main objects - (i) to free from rent control houses and flats above certain rateable value, and (ii) to permit limited increases in the rents of controlled dwellings. So far as the Public Health Department is concerned the principal effect was seen to be an application for Certificates of Disrepair from tenants who, being of opinion that their dwellings were not in a satisfactory state of repair, sought to avoid paying the rent increase. By the end of the year 12 applications for Certificates of Disrepair had been received, in 8 cases the owners gave the statutory undertaking that they would, within six months, carry out the repairs specified by the tenant. In 2 cases where no undertaking was received, certificates of disrepair were issued, and 2 applications were refused.



PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

One Operator is engaged on duties arising principally under this Act, and made a total of 901 visits and inspections, which included 250 treatments. The amount of work falling on this one Operator has increased to an extent that serious consideration had to be given to the nature of the work carried out. The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act places the responsibility for dealing with infestation of rats and mice on the occupier of the premises, and not on the local authority. As part of its general administration the Council has, up to now, undertaken the work of treatment in respect of domestic premises, but this is to be replaced by an inspection and advisory service rather than a treatment service.

The following table shows the work carried out:-

	Type of Property		All other (Including Business Premises)	Total of Cols. 1, 2 and 3	Agricul- tural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)			
	1	2	3	4	5
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	16	9,245	410	9,671	260
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:- Notification	18	211	52	281	22
Survey under the Act	93	304	98	495	44
Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	30	236	72	338	35
3. Total inspections carried out - including re-inspections	122	539	165	826	75
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. 2) found to be infested by					
- major rats	5	57	14	76	5
- minor rats	3	160	38	211	16
- major mice	3	46	7	56	4
- minor mice	4	72	19	95	8
5. Number of infested properties (in Sect. 4) treated by the L.A.	23	186	31	240	10
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	23	186	31	240	10
7. Block Treatments	124	-	-	124	-



PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

There are three establishments in the Council's area licensed under the Pet Animals Act, 1951, an Act designed to ensure that such premises are properly equipped for the purpose for which they are used.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928

The department is responsible for the licensing and supervision of petroleum storage installations. By the above Act no persons may store petroleum spirit in excess of the quantity prescribed unless he holds a licence from the local authority.

In 1957 seventy-six such licences were issued in respect of which fees amounting to £64.17.6. were collected.

It has now become a matter of routine administration not to renew licences in respect of storage facilities that are more than 20 years old unless the installation has been tested by a competent engineer and found to be satisfactory. Such tests are applied at 20 years, 25 years and 30 years, and thereafter annually. During the year 19 installations were tested, 1 tank failed the tests, the use of which was discontinued.





